GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:668
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY INDUSTRY
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop gold and silver jewellery industry in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote gold and silver jewellery projects in Tamil Nadu;

(d) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same during the last three years;

(e) whether the Union Government as well as State Government find it very difficult to monitor the performance of gold and silver jewellery industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fund and monitor such industries?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a), (b) & (c) : The Government has been promoting/developing the gold and silver jewellery export through its Exim Policy measures throughout the country including the State of Tamil Nadu. The Government and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council(GJEPC) have taken several steps to improve the exports of gem and jewellery and enhance competitiveness in the world markets. Some of these are given below:-

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry have prepared a Medium Term Export Strategy for various sectors including Gem & Jewellery sector;

- The GJEPC and the Govt. constantly explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;

- Government have provided funds to set up the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture;

- The GJEPC promotes the image of Indian diamonds and jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;

- The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants.It also deputes Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs; and

- The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made jewellery.

In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the new Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002 :-

- Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolished.

- Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7%. Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/ silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.

- Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through Hyderabad and Jaipur airports as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta, Chennai and Bangalore.

(d) :- As per the information furnished by GJEPC an amount of Rs. One lakh was availed/disbursedduring the year 2001-2002 to registered member exporters of Tamil Nadu. During the current financial year upto the month of December 2002 an amount of Rs. Eleven lakhs has been disbursed to the registered member exporters of Tamil Nadu.

(e) :- No, Sir.

(f) :- Do not arise.